

Message Text

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13-11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCCT-01 IO-10 A-01 OPR-02

OC-05 CCO-00 SY-05 /087 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7744

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 15317

DELIVER NEA/ARN OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, LE

SUBJ: 0900 LEBANON REPORT

1. SITUATION TOOK A TURN FOR THE WORSE AGAIN YESTERDAY, BOTH ON THE GROUND AND IN THE POLITICAL AREA. SERIOUS CLASHES WERE REPORTED IN THE NORTH BETWEEN ZGHORTA FORCES AND LEFTISTS WHICH INVOLVED ARMORED CARS THAT HAD BEEN SEIZED FROM THE FSI AND ARMY. THERE WAS HEAVY FIGHTING DURING THE NIGHT IN ALL THE TRADITIONAL PLACES IN AND AROUND BEIRUT, BUT INCLUDING SOME OF THE MORE DISTANT SUBURBS SUCH AS HADATH, LEILEKE, ALEY, KAHHALES, AND THE AREA AROUND FANAR, WHERE FOUR KATAEB WERE AMBUSHED AND KILLED ABOUT 10 DAYS AGO.

2. CLASHES REPORTEDLY CONTINUE AS OF THIS MORNING ALTHOUGH HOTEL DISTRICT IS QUIET AND THERE ARE A FEW CARS MAKING THEIR WAY THROUGH VARIOUS ROADBLOCKS ERECTED IN THE AREA. AMBASSADOR GOT OFF SMOOTHLY AND QUIETLY FROM AMMAN AND WILL RETURN TOMORROW MORNING.

3. COUNCIL OF MINSTERS MEETING IN BAABDA YESTERDAY BEGAIN
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WITH A DECLARATION BY FRANGIE ACCUSING THE PLO OF NOT RES-

PECTING ITS AGREEMENTS AND GETTING INVOLVED IN LEBANESE AFFAIRS. HE ALSO WELCOMED OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES IN HELPING LEBANESE SOLVE THEIR PROBLEM, REFERRING WITH GRATITUDE IN PARTICULAR TO INTEREST SHOWN BY PRESIDENTS SADAT AND GISCARD D'ESTAING AS WELL AS SHAH OF IRAN'S CALL FOR A MEETING OF ISLAMIC NATIONS TO ASSIST IN FINDING A SOLUTION. KARAME IMMEDIATELY ROSE TO DEFENSE OF PLO AND NOTED THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF POPE AS WELL AS FRENCH PRESIDENT HAD AGREED THE CRISIS WAS DUE TO CONFLICT AMONG LEBANESE THEMSELVES. HE SAID THE PALESTINIANS DID NOT WISH TO BE DRAGGED INTO IT.

4. NOT TO BE OUTDONE, JUMBLATT AND SAEB SALAM INDEPENDENTLY ISSUED CALLS FOR RESIGNATION OF FRANGIE AND CHAMOUN, ACCUSING THEM OF WORKING FOR PARTITION OF THE COUNTRY. (AT LEAST THEY ARE NO LONGER CALLING FOR KARAME'S RESIGNATION.) THERE ARE A VARIETY OF OTHER DECLARATIONS FROM KARAME, IMAMAM MUSA SADR, AND PALESTINIANS. FINALLY, WE NOTE RAYMOND EDDE TOLD AFP IN ROME THAT HE IS ON HIS WAY TO WASHINGTON TO BECOME INFORMED ON "THE EXACT CAUSES WHICH HAVE PLUNGED LEBANON INTO ITS DEPLORABLE STATE." EDDE'S STATEMENT CARRIES IMPLICATION

THAT U.S. IS SOMEHOW INVOLVED IN A PLOT. WE ARE DOING SEPTTEL ON IT WHICH SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF MESSRS. OAKLEY, BUFFUM, AND ANY OTHERS WHOM EDDE MAY WISH TO MEET WITH WHEN HE ARRIVES.

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